

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (original) A method of establishing a wireless communication connection between a source apparatus (20) and one of a plurality of target apparatuses (11, 12, 13), wherein the effective range of signals used for establishing the communication connection is maintained so small that these signals connect the source apparatus only to a minimal number of target apparatuses (12).

2. (original) A method as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that
 - a) the source apparatus (20) transmits search signals (21) whose range (R_d) is increased until they reach a first target apparatus (12);
 - b) a communication connection (22) is established with the target apparatus (12) that has been reached.

3. (currently amended) A method as claimed in claim 1-~~or 2~~, characterized in that
 - a) the source apparatus (20) transmits search signals (21);
 - b) a target apparatus (12) responds to the reception of a search signal (21) by means of a reply signal which has a smaller range

than the range (R_d) of the search signals;

c) a communication connection (22) is established with a target apparatus (12) whose reply signals reach the source apparatus.

4. (original) A method as claimed in claim 3, characterized in that the range of the reply signal transmitted in step b) is increased until a first reply signal reaches the source apparatus (20).

5. (currently amended) A method as claimed in ~~any one of claims 1 to 4~~claim 1, characterized in that the effective range of the search signals and/or the reply signals is changed by changing the reception sensitivity of the receiving apparatus.

6. (currently amended) A method as claimed in ~~any one of claims 1 to 5~~claim 1, characterized in that the range (R_c) of the communication signals of the source apparatus (20) and/or the reached target apparatus (12) is increased after the communication connection (22) has been established.

7. (currently amended) A method as claimed in ~~any one of claims 1 to 6~~claim 1, characterized in that the wireless communication

connection (22) is established by means of radio signals and is preferably operated in accordance with a Bluetooth protocol.

8. (currently amended) A communication device (11, 12, 13, 20) for operating a wireless communication connection, the communication device comprising a control unit (1) and a communication module (2) connected thereto, the control unit being adapted to control the communication module in accordance with a method as claimed in ~~any one of claims 1 to 7~~ claim 1.

9. (currently amended) A communication device as claimed in claim 8, characterized in that the control unit (1) comprises a microprocessor and an associated memory, which memory comprises a computer program implementing a method of establishing a wireless communication connection between a source apparatus (20) and one of a plurality of target apparatuses (11, 12, 13), wherein the effective range of signals used for establishing the communication connection is maintained so small that these signals connect the source apparatus only to a minimal number of target apparatuses (12) as claimed in ~~any one of claims 1 to 7~~.

10. (currently amended) A patient-monitoring system comprising a plurality of monitoring apparatuses (11, 12, 13) connected to each

patient, and a control apparatus (20) comprising a communication device as claimed in claim 8-~~or~~-9.